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an elongated scalpel recess closed at each end and adapted to receive a scalpel having a blade and a handle, and having a first portion adapted to receive said scalpel blade and a second portion adapted to receive at least part of said scalpel handle, said portions [two opposite lengths of cross-section configuration with] having a width slightly greater than that of the major cross-sectional dimension of the scalpel and depth slightly greater than that of the minor cross-sectional dimension of the scalpel, the length of said scalpel recess being such that the scalpel blade is located within one of said portions [opposite lengths] irrespective of the position of the scalpel in the scalpel recess, and

guide means for guiding a scalpel placed in said container to said scalpel recess;

the arrangement being such that a scalpel received within said scalpel recess is positioned therein such that the scalpel [scalper] blade is not directed towards the opening of the scalpel recess whereby a user's fingers are substantially prevented from contacting a cutting portion of the scalpel blade.

In line 1 of claims 2, 7, 9, 10 and 11, please delete "1" and insert -- 15 -- in its place.

In line 1 of claims 4 and 5, please delete "3" and insert -- 15 -- in its place.

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the embodiment exemplified in Figures 1, 2 and 5-10. Support for the amendment to claim 15 to insert "a first portion adapted to receive said scalpel and a second portion adapted to receive at least part of said scalpel handle" is to be found in Figures 1, 2, 5-10 and in the description of them.

With the cancellation of claims 16 and 18, the Examiner's rejection of those claims is rendered moot.

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